

Nashville, TN
February 13, 2003

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received
2/24/2003
BM

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Civil Rights
Mail Code 1201
401—M---Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Environmental Injustice

Dear Sir/Madam:

We are writing this letter to **file a formal complaint** in regards to a **proposed site development** within our neighborhood for commercial-mixed use expansion development. The site, which is located on Villa Place (1200-1201, etc.), has been identified as a **hazard site** with toxic and hazard materials from cleaning/laundry toxics. It may have seeped into the ground water, as well as the surface water. The developers, as of **February 6, 2003**, have received **approval** from Metro Nashville Board of Zoning Appeals to develop their plan on the site as proposed by the property owner, [REDACTED], and Investor, [REDACTED], and Developers. The Community has spoken against this large expanded proposal in that their plans propose for **excavation** to the site which could possible leak further contaminants into the ground, water, or air, but the property owner and developers, as well as Metro Nashville officials and the Board of Zoning Appeals have consistently ignored the importance of such matter.

Therefore, we have been placed in a position to report this incident of the contaminants on-site to your Agency for **further investigation** in order to **avoid** the permit being issued or released for moving forward with the approved plan **before** the site has been completely evaluated and further harm impended on the neighborhood.

This Community is majority African-Americans and has been since the history of the early 60s. The Community is appalled in that there voices were **not** heard or taken very seriously in regards to the harmful affects that will impact on the neighborhood.

Associated neighborhood associations such as **Villa-Wedge-South** whose contact is **Janet Davis**- [REDACTED] ---
-and **Organized Neighbors of Edgehill (ONE)** whose contact is President,

King Holland—[REDACTED] has been supportive in analyzing the nature of this site before any permits are issued for further development, as well as the cause and effect on the excavation of the site. Polluting the environment with further toxics—land, ground, water, and air certainly has the community concerned. Due to these environmental factors within the community, the environmental injustice that the Board has taken upon themselves to place on the Community has brought about a situation for the neighborhood to protect its living environment and quality of life by reporting to your agency the investigative complaint before any site development is initiated.

It appears that Metro Nashville does not take the Community on a serious note of such contaminants as they have approved the plan under the structure of the Metro Board of Zoning Appeals and threw the environmental issue out in their decision-making process. The Board members would be liable for such a decision on the Community in that they are responsible for their decision-making impact they approve on communities. This site development has been approved for excavation by the Board as well, which could further enhance the contaminants in and of itself within the neighborhood.

Please accept this formal letter as a written complaint, and if further information is needed, please feel free to advise.

Your attention to this matter is appreciated. Many thanks.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Concern Community Member

AND

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Concern Community Member

DC

PC: EPA-Atlanta Federal Center—61 Forsyth Street, SW-Atlanta, GA 30303-3104
File